

Draft
Little Hoover: CPR Elimination of QEC
Hearing: January 26, 2005

What were the reasons for establishing the entities proposed for reorganization and how has this public need changed?

The Quality Education Commission was established to develop a quality education model within the minimum funding requirements for school districts imposed by Section 8 of Article XVI of the California Constitution. The model was to “enable the Legislature to make more informed annual budgetary decisions relative to the best allocation of resources for education and to provide substantially improved accountability, within a framework of local control over the use of education resources.” (Ed Code 64200) Specifically, the purpose of the QEC was to develop, evaluate, validate, and refine a quality education model for pre-kindergarten through grade 12. (Ed Code 64201)

California’s school finance system is complex and highly restrictive. Dozens of specifically targeted categorical funds impede educators’ flexibility to meet the needs of their students. The Joint Committee to Develop a Master Plan for Education recommended developing a simplified system of education finance built upon a determination of adequate funding for schools. A simplified funding model is still necessary. The limited focus of the QEC did not address the broader need for education funding reform.

Which functions will be eliminated by the reorganization, and which functions will be performed differently as a result of the reorganization?

The QEC will be eliminated and the duties fulfilled by the Governor’s Advisory Committee on Education Excellence that will be housed in the Office of the Secretary for Education.

For each board or commission proposed for absorption into your agency, please describe the structure, process, number and type of positions that will fulfill these functions.

Not applicable. The QEC was to be funded with non-state resources. (Ed Code 64202) The Governor’s Advisory Committee on Education Excellence will be funded with non-state resources.

What savings (if any) will be captured as a result of the reorganization? What will be done with those savings and how will they be accounted for in the budget?

Non-applicable. (see above.)

For boards or commissions that are proposed for elimination. Who are the appointing authorities, what are the qualifications for membership and the terms of office?

The QEC is a 13-member commission “who shall be representative of the diversity of the state population and shall include: leaders from business and education, representatives of urban districts, suburban districts, and rural districts, representatives of the research community with experience in educational policy and best practices.” The commission’s membership is appointed as follows:

- (A) Seven Governor’s appointees including, one currently employed public school teacher, a currently employed public school administrator, and a current public school board member
- (B) Two Senate Rules appointees,
- (C) Two Assembly Speaker appointees, and
- (D) Two Superintendent of Public Instruction appointees

Members serve a four-year term and are not eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms.

For boards or commissions that are created by the reorganization, who are the appointing authorities, what are the qualifications for membership, the terms of office and the compensation?

The Governor’s Advisory Committee on Education Excellence is appointed by the Governor and tasked to accomplish the following:

- (A) Review funding structures with the goal of maximizing the dollars available for the classroom.
- (B) Assess whether teachers are adequately prepared and the most effective means to insure that students have the best possible instructors.
- (C) Determine whether principals and superintendents are adequately trained as leaders and what the most effective means are to achieving leadership standards.
- (D) Evaluate the education governance structure to determine whether the current state and local structures provide academic results and financial accountability.

The Committee will be comprised of nine members that serve on a pro-bono basis, at no cost to the state (including meetings). Private funding will be secured for travel expenses and technical support.

How will the new organization guard against special interests inappropriately influencing decision-makers.

Unknown

How will the public be better served by reorganizing these boards or commissions and how will this improvement be measured and reported?

The Governor's Advisory Committee on Education Excellence will assess adequate funding and address models of excellence in teacher preparation, administrative leadership, education governance, and maximizing funding available to the classroom.